



March 2006
Volume 15, Number 1

Diane Hargrove
2005-2006 President

Message from the President

Diane Hargrove, MPHA President

Greetings to everyone! Now that Spring has finally arrived we can focus on all those healthy lifestyle choices we have been putting off. It's almost time to shed those coats and sweaters. The theme for our 2006 Annual Meeting, "Stepping Into A Healthy Future," reminds us that we can impact our health outcomes. We know that diet and exercise are two key components to staying healthy as well as warding off many diseases.

Take the time to do a personal inventory and commit to making at least one change that will benefit your health. You will be glad you did!

**JOIN MPHA TODAY!
FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
IS AVAILABLE ON-LINE
www.msdh.state.ms.us/mpha**

**2006 Annual Meeting
September 20-22, 2006
Grand Casino & Resort
Tunica, Mississippi**

You can make your reservation at the Veranda Hotel, Grand Casino Resort, Tunica, MS by calling 1-800-394-7263. Identify yourself with Mississippi Public Health or Group number s09mpha. Room rates for the conference are \$64 plus tax per night for a single or double room. **Don't wait until the last minute to make your plans.**

National Public Health Week

April 3-9, 2006

Designing Healthy Communities: Raising Healthy Kids

APHA has designated this topic to improve the understanding of the relationship between built environments- homes, schools, parks and community design –and the health and safety of children. For more information on what your community or health department can do, go to www.apha.org/nphw. This year, MPHA, in collaboration with the University of Southern Mississippi Community Health Center, is working with the Waveland Elementary School to make improvements in their playground. APHA delegate, Terri Sasser, is coordinating this activity.

Calling For Candidates

The MPHA Executive Committee is currently taking nominations for the position of President-Elect. The President-Elect will serve as President for the 2007-2008 cycle. If you or someone you know may be interested in either of these positions, please contact a member of the Executive Committee to make the nomination. The Committee will select two candidates from those who are nominated and the election will be held at the Annual Meeting. You must be a member of MPHA to run for this position.

Silent Auction & Door Prizes

It's not too early to start collecting those special items that can be used for door prizes or our Silent Auction. If you have any donations contact Jean Lawes (662-453-4563) or Delmer Roark (662-563-5603)

MPHA Awards

The Mississippi Public Health Association (MPHA) is currently accepting nominations for Prestige Awards to be given at the 2006 Annual Conference in September. Nominations are being taken for the following:

Felix J. Underwood Award: Recipients of the Felix J. Underwood Award earn an honor reserved only for those people who share concern with "the father of public health in Mississippi" for protecting the health of Mississippians.

John Vic Bailey Award: Recipients of the Jon "Vic" Bailey Award have performed outstanding service to his/her community or to an individual in the community during the preceding 12 months.

Alton B. Cobb Award: Recipients of the Alton B. Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award consist of individuals who exemplify the service standards set by Dr. Cobb, who devoted nearly two decades of his distinguished career to serving as Mississippi's State Health Officer.

MPHA Outstanding Member Award: Recipients of the MPHA Outstanding Member Award is an honor reserved for those who have gone above and beyond to dedicate their time to the mission and values represented by Mississippi Public Health Association.

The winners of these awards will be honored during the MPHA Awards Luncheon.

For more information, or if you would like to nominate a fellow co-worker, please contact Vernesia Wilson at 601-576-7135 or by website at www.msdh.state.ms.us/mpha. Nominations for Prestige Awards will be accepted until July 31, 2006.

Nominations are also open for the various section awards. Please contact the section chairs for closing dates and to nominate deserving co-workers.

Also, if you have been with the agency for 20, 25, 30, 35, or 40 years and have not been contacted regarding a longevity award, please contact Vernesia Wilson at 601-576-7135 as soon as possible.

NOTE: You MUST be a member of MPHA to be eligible for a Prestige Award and/or Longevity Award.

2006 MPHA Officers

Diane Hargrove – President
Pam Miles – President-Elect
Terri Sasser – Past President
Treasurer – Mark Phillips
Secretary – Kay Walker

Section Chairs:

Clerical – Ann Parker-May
Environmental Health – Bruce Rawls
Epidemiology – Andrea Miller
Health Administration – Louisa Denson
Physicians/Clinicians – Dr. LeDon Langston
Nutrition – Rebecca Ranager
Nursing – Debbie Lewers
Social Work – Lisa Moore

Standing Committees:

Audit – Jason Easley
Awards – Vernesia Wilson
Exhibits – Judy Parrott
Policy & Resolutions – Larry Rouse

Special Ad-hoc Committees:

Membership – Sandra Hill
Entertainment – Terry Cousin
Exhibits/On-site – Bruce Chamberlain
Silent Auction – Jean Lawes
Door Prizes – Delmer Roark
Voting – Roger Riley
Workshop Coordination – Jerome Winston
Audiovisuals – Malcolm Dodd
Hotel Arrangements – Buddy Daughdrill

Don't forget to check out our website at www.msdh.state.ms.us/mpha.